Application Number 10/676,187
Responsive to Office Action mailed September 13, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):   A method comprising:

presenting a user interface that includes a plurality of graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms adjustable by a user, wherein the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms represent ranges of options associated with a set of items available from an electronic commerce system;

receiving input from the user that adjusts one of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms within the respective range;

selecting one of the items from the set based on the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms adjusted by the user; and

automatically adjusting at least one of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms not adjusted by the user based on the selected one of the items.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):   The method of claim 1, wherein presenting a user interface comprises presenting the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms to include set points having adjustable positions within the represented ranges, wherein the set points represent current values or positions within the represented ranges, and further wherein automatically adjusting at least one of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms comprises re-computing the positions for the set points associated with one or more of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms.

Claim 3 (Original):   The method of claim 2, wherein receiving input comprises receiving a new position for a set point associated with the graphical indicator adjusted by the user, and selecting one of the items comprises determining which one of the items has an option that most closely matches the set point for the graphical indicator adjusted by the user.

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Claim 4 (Original):   The method of claim 2, wherein selecting one of the items comprises selecting one of the items that has options most similar to the set points for a previously selected item.

Claim 5 (Original):   The method of claim 2, wherein one of the options comprises a price associated with each of the items and selecting one of the items comprises selecting one of the items to minimize a change to a price set point for a previously selected item.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):   ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method comprising:
        presenting a user interface that includes a plurality of graphical input mechanisms adjustable by a user, wherein the graphical input mechanisms represent ranges of options associated with a set of items available from an electronic commerce system, and wherein the graphical input mechanisms include set points having adjustable positions within the represented ranges, the set points representing current values or positions within the represented ranges.
        receiving input from the user that adjusts one of the graphical input mechanisms within the respective range;
        selecting one of the items from the set based on the graphical indicator adjusted by the user; and
        automatically adjusting at least one of the positions for the set points associated with the graphical input mechanisms,
        wherein selecting one of the items comprises[[:]] prioritizing the set points into higher priority set points and lower priority set points[[;]] and selecting the item from the set of items to minimize a change to the positions of the higher priority set points.

Claim 7 (Original):   The method of claim 6, further comprising receiving input from the user that defines priorities for the set points.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented):   The method of claim 6, wherein the prioritizing the set points comprises prioritizing the set points that have been recently adjusted by the user.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving input from the user to limit the range associated with one of the options; and

configuring one of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms to limit the adjustable

positions of the corresponding set point in accordance with the defined range.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the search criteria from the user; and

querying a database server to retrieve the set of items that match the search criteria; and

determining the ranges of the available options based on the returned set of items.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating an e-commerce

transaction for the selected item in response to receiving action input from the user.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 11, wherein initiating an e-commerce

transaction comprises initiation purchase of the item.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein each of the items comprise one of a

service and a product.

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Claim 14 (Currently Amended):   A system comprising:

a user interface software module operating on a computer,

wherein the user interface software module presents a user interface that includes a

plurality of graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms adjustable by a ~~the~~ user,

wherein the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms represent respective ranges of

available options associated with a set of items available from an electronic commerce system,

and ~~further~~

wherein the user interface software module selects one of the items based on an

adjustment to one of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms by a ~~the~~ user, and automatically

adjusts at least one of the other graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms based on the selected one

of the items.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended):   The system of claim 14, wherein the graphical ~~indicators~~

input mechanisms include set points having adjustable positions within the represented ranges,

wherein the set points represent current values or positions within the represented ranges, and the

user interface software module re-computes the positions for the set points associated with the

other graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms based on the selected item.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface software module

selects one of the items by determining which one of the items has an option that most closely

matches a new position for the set point of the graphical indicator adjusted by the user.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface software module

selects one of the items that has options most similar to the set points for a previously selected

item when a plurality of the items match the new position for the set point of the graphical

indicator adjusted by the user.

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface software module

selects one of the items to minimize a change to a price set point for a previously selected item.

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Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface software module selects one of the items based on user-defined priorities assigned to the set points.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented):   The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface software module selects one of the items based on minimizing a change to the positions of any of the set points that have been recently adjusted by the user.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended):   The system of claim 14, wherein the user interface software module comprises a client-side user interface software module executing on a client device, and the user interface software module automatically adjusts at least one of the graphical indicators input mechanisms without communicating with a web server.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 14, wherein each of the items comprise one of a service and a product.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn):   A system comprising:
        a host computer that executes software to transact reservations for airline flights, wherein the airline flights have a set of available options; and
        a user interface software module executing on a client computer coupled to the host computer via a network, wherein the user interface software module presents a user interface having a plurality of graphical indicators and user-adjustable set points that graphically define positions within ranges of the available options associated with the airline flights.Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 23, wherein the user interface software module selects one of the airline flights based on an adjustment to one of the set points of the graphical indicators, and automatically re-computes the positions for the set points of the other graphical indicators of the user interface based on the selected one of the airline flights.

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Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 23, further comprising a server-side user interface software module executing on the host computer, wherein the server-side user interface software module selects one of the airline flights based on an adjustment to one of the set points of the graphical indicators, and automatically re-computes the positions for the set points of the other graphical indicators of the user interface based on the selected one of the airline flights.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 23, wherein the options for the airline flights include a price, a number of transfers, a total flying time, a time of departure, and an arrival time.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A system comprising:
computing means for providing real-time tradeoff analysis of options associated with items offered to a user by an electronic commerce system;
network interface means for generating a user interface for the computing means; and
display means for presenting the user interface to a user,
wherein the network interface means includes generation means for generating the user interface to include a plurality of graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms adjustable by the user, each of the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms representing a respective range of available options associated with the items and having a set point specifying a value within the range,
wherein the set point of each graphical input mechanism presents a current value or position within the represented range, and
wherein the computing means includes automatic update means to automatically re-compute one or more of the set points and adjust the graphical ~~indicators~~ input mechanisms associated with the re-computed set points in response to input from the user.

Claim 28 (Original): The system of claim 27, wherein the computing means includes selection means for selecting one of the items from the set of items in response to the input from the user.

Claim 29 (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein the input from the user manually adjusts one of the set points, and the selection means selects the item having options that most closely satisfy manually adjusted set point.

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Claim 30 (Original): The system of claim 27, wherein each of the items comprise one of a

service and a product.

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